

Message

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**From:** Scianni, Melissa [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=96DF5A77C72A4D109141A14DCF9E5C9B-MSCIANNI]  
**Sent:** 4/14/2021 7:56:27 PM  
**To:** Marlene Tyner-Valencourt [tyner-valencourt@wra-ca.com]; Steinert, Tiffany@Waterboards [Tiffany.Steinert@waterboards.ca.gov]  
**CC:** Pankratz, Shannon L CIV USARMY CESPL (US) [Shannon.L.Pankratz@usace.army.mil]; Gan, Janice@Wildlife [Janice.Gan@wildlife.ca.gov]; Mahdavi, Sarvy [Mahdavi.Sarvy@epa.gov]; Gymer, Lisa@Wildlife [Lisa.Gymer@wildlife.ca.gov]; Nate Bello [bello@wra-ca.com]; Tracey Brownfield [tracey@landveritas.com]; Mayer, David@Wildlife [David.Mayer@wildlife.ca.gov]; Zimmerman, Jan@Waterboards [jan.zimmerman@waterboards.ca.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: PRMB - Rift Valley Flash Grazing Proposal for IRT Email Authorization

Hi Marlene,

I likely won't have time to substantively review the document until Friday.

Thanks,  
Melissa

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Melissa Scianni  
Wetlands Office  
US EPA, Region IX, Southern CA Field Office  
600 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 940  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
(213) 244-1817  
scianni.melissa@epa.gov

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**From:** Marlene Tyner-Valencourt <tyner-valencourt@wra-ca.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 14, 2021 12:29 PM  
**To:** Steinert, Tiffany@Waterboards <Tiffany.Steinert@waterboards.ca.gov>  
**Cc:** Scianni, Melissa <Scianni.Melissa@epa.gov>; Pankratz, Shannon L CIV USARMY CESPL (US) <Shannon.L.Pankratz@usace.army.mil>; Gan, Janice@Wildlife <Janice.Gan@wildlife.ca.gov>; Mahdavi, Sarvy <Mahdavi.Sarvy@epa.gov>; Gymer, Lisa@Wildlife <Lisa.Gymer@wildlife.ca.gov>; Nate Bello <bello@wra-ca.com>; Tracey Brownfield <tracey@landveritas.com>; Mayer, David@Wildlife <David.Mayer@wildlife.ca.gov>; Zimmerman, Jan@Waterboards <jan.zimmerman@waterboards.ca.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: PRMB - Rift Valley Flash Grazing Proposal for IRT Email Authorization

Thanks Tiffany, we'll make those two changes and re-distribute to the IRT. Does anyone else have any initial comments we can start incorporating?

Thanks,  
Marlene

On Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 5:00 PM Steinert, Tiffany@Waterboards <[Tiffany.Steinert@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Tiffany.Steinert@waterboards.ca.gov)> wrote:

Hi Melissa,

I understand Petersen Ranch would like to use cattle grazing in wetland areas to control invasive species and improve habitat quality, however, there is nothing in the guidance to protect water quality. The document will need to be revised to add protections for water quality. Thanks!

P.S. Can you add the Regional Board boundary to the figure?

Tiffany Steinert

Engineering Geologist

*Regional Water Quality Control Board - Lahontan Region 6*

*15095 Amargosa Road – Bldg 2, Ste 210*

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*The majority of Lahontan Water Board staff are teleworking due to an Executive Order from Governor Newsom. However, we are available via email and voicemail. We are responding to emails throughout the workday. Responses to voicemail may take more than one business day.*

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**From:** Marlene Tyner-Valencourt <[tyner-valencourt@wra-ca.com](mailto:tyner-valencourt@wra-ca.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 13, 2021 12:58 PM

**To:** Scianni, Melissa <[Scianni.Melissa@epa.gov](mailto:Scianni.Melissa@epa.gov)>

**Cc:** Pankratz, Shannon L CIV USARMY CESPL (US) <[Shannon.L.Pankratz@usace.army.mil](mailto:Shannon.L.Pankratz@usace.army.mil)>; Gan, Janice@Wildlife <[Janice.Gan@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Janice.Gan@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Mahdavi, Sarvy <[Mahdavi.Sarvy@epa.gov](mailto:Mahdavi.Sarvy@epa.gov)>; Steinert, Tiffany@Waterboards <[Tiffany.Steinert@Waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Tiffany.Steinert@Waterboards.ca.gov)>; Gymer, Lisa@Wildlife <[Lisa.Gymer@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Lisa.Gymer@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Nate Bello <[bello@wra-ca.com](mailto:bello@wra-ca.com)>; Tracey Brownfield <[tracey@landveritas.com](mailto:tracey@landveritas.com)>; Mayer, David@Wildlife <[David.Mayer@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:David.Mayer@wildlife.ca.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: PRMB - Rift Valley Flash Grazing Proposal for IRT Email Authorization

EXTERNAL:
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Hi Melissa,

Thanks for your questions. We are definitely requesting approval of the plan for implementation in 2021 via email authorization. If the IRT can provide email authorization for implementation of this plan in future years that sounds like it would be very efficient, and we did write the plan to be flexible in case implementation in future years was an option. If the IRT has guidance or a recommendation on how we can obtain approval for use of the plan in future years please let us know. However, our immediate need is to implement this plan in 2021.

Yes, given the short turnaround we would appreciate prioritization of the review and approval of this grazing plan and then back to Area A Release 3. If anyone would like us to set up a quick call this week to walk through the plan to help expedite the review process we would be happy to do so.

Thank you and let me know if you have any other questions!

Marlene

On Mon, Apr 12, 2021 at 8:30 PM Scianni, Melissa <[Scianni.Melissa@epa.gov](mailto:Scianni.Melissa@epa.gov)> wrote:

Hi Marlene,

Are you requesting IRT approval to incorporate this grazing plan into the Interim Management Plan such that it would be implemented annually? Or are you asking for approval to implement this plan in 2021, followed by reporting in the fall, and subsequent IRT approval for grazing after 2021?

Also, given the very quick turnaround requested for this review, are you asking that IRT prioritize review of this grazing plan over the other actions pending for Peterson and/or Soquel?

Thanks,

Melissa

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Melissa Scianni

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**From:** Marlene Tyner-Valencourt <[tyner-valencourt@wra-ca.com](mailto:tyner-valencourt@wra-ca.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, April 12, 2021 5:23 PM

**To:** Pankratz, Shannon L CIV USARMY CESPL (US) <[Shannon.L.Pankratz@usace.army.mil](mailto:Shannon.L.Pankratz@usace.army.mil)>; Gan, Janice@Wildlife <[Janice.Gan@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Janice.Gan@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Scianni, Melissa <[Scianni.Melissa@epa.gov](mailto:Scianni.Melissa@epa.gov)>; Mahdavi, Sarvy <[Mahdavi.Sarvy@epa.gov](mailto:Mahdavi.Sarvy@epa.gov)>; Steinert, Tiffany@Waterboards <[tiffany.steinert@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:tiffany.steinert@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Gymer, Lisa@Wildlife <[lisa.gymer@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:lisa.gymer@wildlife.ca.gov)>

**Cc:** Nate Bello <[bello@wra-ca.com](mailto:bello@wra-ca.com)>; Tracey Brownfield <[tracey@landveritas.com](mailto:tracey@landveritas.com)>; Mayer, David@Wildlife <[David.Mayer@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:David.Mayer@wildlife.ca.gov)>

**Subject:** PRMB - Rift Valley Flash Grazing Proposal for IRT Email Authorization

Hello Petersen Ranch IRT,

We are about to begin adaptive management efforts at the Bank. During our December 15, 2020 meeting, the IRT requested the Bank Sponsor submit adaptive management proposals to the IRT for review and email authorization/approval.

Per that discussion, please find attached our proposal for completing flash grazing in the Rift Valley to control non-native annual grasses encroaching on the restored wetland complex. We prepared the proposal in the form of a guidance document that can be referenced during implementation by the Ranch manager. It includes a pasture and infrastructure map, stocking rate recommendations, field indicators of adaptively managing the intensity of grazing, and monitoring recommendations.

The goals of the plan are to (1) reduce stress on native plant species in Rift Valley wetland communities and (2) increase habitat quality for native plants and animals. Flash grazing will help shape the community composition of the wetlands to favor native species, and reduce the evapotranspiration of soil water during native perennial grass dormancy by reducing biomass of annual grasses.

To summarize, the plan recommends the following:

- Begin grazing in mid-April and end May 31 to target non-native annual grasses ahead of emergence of natives;
- Targeted grazing of four pastures dividing up the Rift Valley, starting from the west and working east, in two passes within the grazing timeframe;
- Regular monitoring and reporting on metrics such as stocking rate, stubble height, regular photographs, and autumn RDM measurements; and
- Summary of effort will be presented in the 2021 annual monitoring report, submitted to the IRT by November 15, 2021.

We have confirmed via review of the BEI, LTMP, and conservation easement that grazing within the Rift Valley is allowed with IRT approval.

Please review and provide us with approval and email authorization to implement the plan. Please note that we anticipate grazing would need to begin very soon (within the next 1-2 weeks) so we appreciate your timely attention to this.

Thanks and please reach out with any questions.  
Marlene

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**MARLENE TYNER-VALENCOURT, MESM** | Conservation Project Manager | d: [858.682.2699](tel:858.682.2699) | o: [858.842.1800](tel:858.842.1800) x 2210 | c: [248.499.0805](tel:248.499.0805) | [tyner-valencourt@wra-ca.com](mailto:tyner-valencourt@wra-ca.com)

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